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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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9-30-1927

## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 39)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 39)

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-  
ness I hold fast,  
and will not let  
it go."  
—Job 27.8

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers  
of the world  
unite! You  
have nothing to  
lose but your  
chains."

Vol. IX. No. 39.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Representation Debate Meeting Saturday, Oct. 15

President Sigman to Lead Off Debate.

The Propaganda Bureau of the I. L. G. W. U. has arranged for a symposium meeting for the exchange of views on the subject of proportional representation to conventions, to take place on Saturday afternoon, October 15, in the auditorium of the International Building, 3 West 16th Street. Among those who will take part in the debate are Vice-President David Dubinsky, Bro. Nathan Kaplan and Kirtzman, managers respectively of Locals 2 and 9; Manny Weiss, manager of Local 6; Bro. Ph. Kurinsky, of the editorial staff of "Justice," and M. J. Ashbeas. President Morris Sigman has consented to lead off the discussion.

The question of proportional representation is in the forefront of subjects on the Union's order of the day at this hour. The last meeting of the General Executive Board has ruled that the referendum on this matter take place within the next six weeks.

## Vote on Proportional Representation Will End November 1

Meeting of General Executive Board Adopts President Sigman's Suggestions for Raising Standards of Work and Earnings in Industry — The Bigger Shop One of Union's Main Goals — Boston Workers Receive International Heads With Enthusiasm at Special Meetings — Convention City, May, 1928. To Be Voted For Simultaneously with Representation Referendum.

The five-day meeting of the General Executive Board in Boston last week — from Wednesday, September 21 to Sunday, September 25 — has resulted in a number of important decisions affecting vital subjects facing the International Union and its subdivisions at the present moment.

The principal subject of discussion, as indicated in last week's issue of "Justice," was the adoption of plans that would lead to the restoration of

the bigger type of shop in the cloak and dress industry, both "inside" and "outside." The small, irresponsible, contractor shop is, concededly, the worst evil in both main trades of the women's garment industry today. As long as this type of shop continues to flourish, stability of work conditions, security of employment and of livelihood is almost impossible in this, one of the richest — and one of the most chaotic — industries in the land.

Next in order was the question of organizing the unorganized — principally women dress workers — in New York, Chicago, Toronto, Baltimore, Montreal, and in almost every other city where dress manufacturing is fast growing. The liquidation of the Communist pestilence has untied the hands of the International executives who are now turning their energy to

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New York  
Hobbs Library  
100 City & 6th Ave.  
Bro. Isidore Nagler  
Represent  
I. L. G. W. U. at  
Los Angeles

resent Expression of Gratitude  
Executive Council for Aid Given  
in Fight to Preserve Union.

Bro. Isidore Nagler, well known member of Local 10, and manager of the Industrial Council Department of the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board, will represent this year the I. L. G. W. U. in Los Angeles, Cal. at the 47th convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Of the other five delegates, President Sigman was unable to leave the East at this time for a long Western trip, and it was therefore decided, in the interest of economy, not to send more than one person this year, but to have Bro. Nagler represent the members of the International at Los Angeles.

Bro. Nagler will present at Los Angeles two resolutions, one thanking President Green of the A. F. of L. and the entire Executive Council for the splendid aid they had rendered the I. L. G. W. U. in its defensive fight to save the organization of the women's garment workers from the sinister clutches of the Communists, and another — to all the constructive forces in the A. F. of L. and the mine workers, the machinists, the printers, and the hosiery workers in particular — for the financial aid they had given the International Union in recent months in the form of timely loans.

## 200 Shops Unionized In Two Months, Hochman Reports

Vice-President Hochman Reports General Improvement in All Shops Thanks to Organizing Drive — Campaign to Continue in Force.

Vice-president Julius Hochman, the general manager of the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board, created an excellent impression at the meeting of the General Executive Board in Boston when he reported that in the comparatively brief time of eight weeks, the organizing force of the Joint Board, composed principally of volunteer workers, has succeeded in placing under union control and agreements two hundred cloak and dress shops and in driving out of business no less than a hundred shops with whom the Joint Board refused to settle as irresponsible and unstable establishments.

Open scabbery by the Communist element, Hochman declared, has impeded, in the early days of the drive, the work of the organizers, but as it grew in volume and intensity this obstacle has been gradually swept out of the way, thanks to the peerless loyalty and courageous devotion to their tasks of the members of the volunteer pickets. The drive has produced a very favorable impression on the organized shops, stiffening up oh

servance of union conditions in them, and increasing the respect of the employers for the Union as a whole. Once again it has become evident in the cloak and dress trade that there is a workers' organization in the shops that would fight any violation or disregard of the accepted union standards.

The organization work will continue unbroken, Bro. Hochman stated, regardless of the condition of the season, and will be carried on, in a larger or smaller degree, all through the coming months.

## Communist Hirelings Plead Guilty To Charge of Molesting Union Members

Scab Agency Trying to Raise "Defense Fund" For Self-Confessed Sluggers.

Last week in Jefferson Market court the mask of cant and bloody hypocrisy was once again pulled off the face of the Communist scab agents in the cloak and dress trade, when five of the eight sluggers, arrested two

The agents of the Moscow Comintern, whose attempts on the life of the I. L. G. W. U. in the past two years

## Chicago Communists Offered Vice- Pres. Ninfo \$25,000 To Be "Left Alone"

Brother Ninfo Tells of \$25,000 Offer Made to Him by Communist Spokesman in Chicago, If the International Would Leave His Mate in Control — Chicago and Boston Rid of Communist Rule.

weeks ago on charges of attacking union men and women in the cloak and dress market, pleaded guilty to a charge of disorderly conduct. These fellows, who are not cloakmakers or dressmakers, were later discovered to be the hirelings of the discredited Communist group which is carrying on now a wholesale strikebreaking business in cloak and dress shops.

Immediately after they had declared themselves guilty, their lawyer appealed to Magistrate Brodsky, before whom they were brought, to postpone sentence for two weeks. Attorney Samuel Markewich, who represented the International Joint Board, declared that while he was not interested in sending these fellows to jail, he felt that they should be driven out of the market forever, and that he would be contented with a money fine

(Continued on Page 2)

have resulted in such dismal failures, are reputed to be adepts at corruption, bribery, and demoralization. To them, as they themselves admit, all means and methods are sacred, and every secondism is sanctified by the ultimate purpose — the mythical "revolution." That's why Communist don't hesitate to hire gangsters, to bribe capitalist police, to employ slander, abuse and innuendo, if it only, in their belief, suits their purpose of destroying the "enemy."

One such attempt at bribery by Communists, however, has met with downright failure, and this time again when one of their "experts" encountered a leader of the International, Vice-President Salvatore Ninfo in Chicago. Bro. Ninfo told the story of this offer of \$25,000 made to him by one of the former shining lights in the Communist-controlled Chicago Joint Board, shortly before the recent election which put them out of office and power. We shall let the story be told in the words of Vice-President Ninfo himself:

"When the Communists realized that extinction stared them in the face, that the vote of the members would separate them for good from their jobs and salaries, a former vice-

(Continued on page 2)

## Dress Firm Denied Injunction On Ground of Appeal Court Ruling

"Workers May Picket Peacefully Even When There Is No Strike" Justice Frankenthaler Rules.

The first application of the recent ruling of the New York Court of Appeals, that workers may picket even though no strike may be said to exist, has just been made by Supreme Court Justice Alfred Frankenthaler in denying an injunction against the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

and its New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board.

A request for an injunction was made before Justice Frankenthaler on September 2 in Special Term, Part 1 by the Oakland Garment, Inc., 523 W. 39th Street, dress manufacturers. The

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## Vote on Representation Will End November 15

(Continued from Page 1)

constructive work exclusively.

The meeting also discussed the details of the referendum to be held soon on proportional representation, and also selected several cities from which the membership of the I. L. G. W. U. might choose one for the holding of the regular convention in May, 1928.

**Meetings Hail Pres. Sigman and Associate Leaders**

During the five days that the General Executive Board spent in Boston, the local organizations of the I. L. G. W. U. arranged special meetings which were addressed by President Sigman, Secretary Baroff, and many of the members of the G. E. B. The most interesting gathering took place on Friday, September 23, when all the executives of the Boston locals met to listen to addresses by the leaders of the International. Pro. Polakoff, In-

ternational representative in Boston, also spoke at this meeting.

That same evening, the Italian workers in the ladies' garment industry in Boston also had a meeting which was addressed by President Sigman, Secretary Baroff, Ninfo, Antonini, and Polakoff. On Saturday afternoon, September 24, the Boston cutters, members of Local 73, held a meeting, which was addressed by Vice-president David Dubinsky. The raincoat makers also had a special meeting to greet the heads of the International, and it was addressed by President Sigman, Polakoff, and Glingold. All these meetings were unusually well attended, and the workers paid close attention to the speeches of President Sigman and his associates. The Boston workers openly thanked the General Executive Board for having held the meeting in Boston and expressed the hope that the coming convention would be held in Boston, too.

### MANY DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOSTON MEETING OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Vice president Elias Reisberg reported for Boston, and gave a detailed account of the work carried out by the G. E. B. sub-committee in that city, the election of officers supervised, and the general results achieved.

The G. E. B. accepted the report with thanks to the committee for efficient and conscientious services. Appreciation was also expressed to all active workers and officers in Boston for their loyal cooperation.

Vice-president David Dubinsky, Salvatore Ninfo, and Mollie Friedman, reported in detail on the work of the sub-committee in Chicago. (The particulars of this activity have already been reported at length in "Justice" and in the daily labor press, and some items of it appear elsewhere in this issue). The G. E. B. voted to thank the committee, and also voted to express its gratitude to the Chicago Federation of Labor, its president and all other officers, to the United Hebrew Trades of Chicago and its officers, and to all the loyal members of the I. L. G. W. U. in Chicago who had helped in the great work of freeing the Chicago organization from the disruptive domination of the Communists.

In connection with this matter it was decided that such of the Chicago Communists as had proved to be particularly pernicious in their enmity and disruptive activity be brought up, on charges, and, if found guilty, be expelled from the I. L. G. W. U.

Local 7, embroiderers' union of Toronto, sent a resolution to the G. E. B. thanking it for assistance rendered through Bro. Polakoff, while the latter was International representative in Toronto. They expressed the hope that the G. E. B. would continue their help, especially in the matter of renewal of contracts.

Local 35, in a communication, raised a jurisdiction question in connection with pressers working in children's dress, infant coats, and similar shops, who, as claimed by Local 35, were being compelled to transfer to Local 91. The G. E. B. appointed a committee to investigate this matter. The committee consists of Vice-presidents Halperin, Antonini, and Glingold.

Vice-president Harry Greenberg was appointed by the G. E. B. to supervise the activity of Local 41, the organization of the New York tuckers, hem-stitchers, and pleaters.

The Unity House Committee, speaking through its chairman, Vice-president Halperin, gave a report, which showed that the Unity House had a very successful season in 1927, and

outlined a plan for winter activity and for the next season. The G. E. B. accepted the report with thanks, and voted to express thanks to the "Forward" and its writers for having given our Unity House generous and very valuable publicity in its columns.

The G. E. B. decided at the request of the Cleveland Joint Board to ask President Sigman to visit Cleveland and to help the local organization in negotiating the annual agreement with the Cleveland manufacturers, which expires in December.

Bro. Paul Dembitzer, manager of the propaganda committee of the General Office, sent a report, which was read and approved.

The G. E. B. approved of the appointment of Bro. Sol Polakoff as International representative in Boston, to take charge of the Boston Joint Board, and also to act in a supervising capacity over Local 24, the raincoat makers' local.

It was decided that the referendum on proportional representation be held between October 15 and November 15; the last day being final for returns. It was recommended that debates, discussions be continued on this subject at meetings and in the International press. The locals will shortly receive the ballots and would have to call special meetings to discuss the subjects of proportional representation and to vote on it at these meetings. At these meetings also committees of tellers would have to be appointed, who would be in charge of the voting and would report the result of the vote at that same meeting.

The locals of the International in all localities will elect committees of three to act as referendum committees, which will be directly in touch with the Referendum Committee of the General Executive Board, through the General Office. The vote on proportional representation is to be by a secret ballot.

It was also decided, in the interests of economy and expediency, to carry out the referendum on the convention city at the same time with the referendum on proportional representation. The following cities were suggested for the convention city: Boston, Philadelphia and Unity House, Forest Park, Pa.

It was decided to adopt a special set of regulations with regard to reinitiation of persons who had been active in the Communist fight against the International, as members of the Union.

The G. E. B. voted to begin work to

## Judge Denies Injunction to Dress Firm

(Continued from Page 1)

firm claimed that since its organization on April 7, 1927, it has operated as a non-union shop and it sought to make the organization department of the Joint Board desist from unionizing its workers. The Union, through its counsel, Morris Rothenberg, 5 Beekman Street, contended that prior to and up to April 8, 1927, the firm had been a member of the Dress Manufacturers' Association with which the union has contractual relations. The union claimed, however, in addition, that regardless of such contracts, it had the right to picket under the recent decision of the Court of Appeals in the case of the Exchange Bakery Restaurant Company versus Rifkin et al.

In upholding the position of the International and the Joint Board, Justice Frankenthaler ruled:

"This is an application for an injunction against the Joint Board, Cloak, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union, a labor organization, to enjoin the defendant union from committing certain alleged unlawful acts and continuing its efforts to unionize plaintiff's factory. The plaintiff claims that on the 24th day of August, 1927, a committee of union workers called at the plaintiff's factory and attempted to induce the plaintiff's employees to join the union and thereafter for several days pickets were posted at the entrance to plaintiff's factory. The defendant union contends that the committee... behaved in an orderly manner and that they merely asked

plaintiff's employees to become members of the union. No officer of the defendant union is claimed to have committed an unlawful act except that one Moskowitz is claimed to have made a threat to one of the plaintiff's officers over the telephone. This is denied by Moskowitz in an affidavit which he presents. The defendant union contends that no case is made out for an injunction against the union, and that its efforts to enlist the plaintiff's employees are lawful. The defendant further contends that the plaintiff was a member of an employers' association known as the Association of Dress Manufacturers, Inc., and that the union made an agreement with this association whereby the members of the employers' association pledged themselves to employ only union workers, this agreement to continue until December 31, 1928.

"The efforts of union workers to induce fellow workers to become members of a union are not unlawful provided that no violence or unlawful conduct is resorted to. I do not think the plaintiff has made out a case which entitles it to temporary injunctive relief in view of the disputed issue as to whether or no defendants are interfering with the contractual relations between plaintiff and its employees. In Exchange Bakery & Restaurant, Inc. v. Rifkin et al. (245 N. Y. 260) the Court of Appeals, in a case more favorable to plaintiff than the one at bar, held that the plaintiff was not entitled to injunctive relief. The motion is therefore denied."

## Ninfo Spurned Communist Bribe Offer

(Continued from Page 1)

chairman of the Chicago board, a Communist follower by name Stein came to me with the following proposal:

"I know, Bro. Ninfo," he addressed me, "that the International is badly in need of funds these days. Why should we fight each other? Leave us alone in Chicago and we shall see to it that the International gets \$25,000 from the local treasury. Almost stunned by the nerve of this fellow, I gave him the following answer: 'You may go back to your comrades and tell them that we hurl back this filthy bribe into their faces. Our fight against your gang is a fight for principles, a fight for trade unionism, a fight to free our unions from political machination and oppression. No amount of graft will ever taint the hand of a faithful leader of our International. We shall do our duty by our members.'

"This proposal to me was made by the same bunch that is now, as before, agitating among the workers in Chicago as well as in New York not to pay dues to the International and its affiliated organizations. This gang,

however, would have stopped before no barter, no matter how mean or despicable, in order to continue their hold upon the jobs that they had for a time controlled," concluded Vice-President Ninfo.

## Band Pleads Guilty

(Continued from Page 1)

and an admonition that they never again dare set a foot in the garment district.

Thanks to this interposition by Mr. Markewich, Magistrate Brodsky postponed sentence until October 5, to enable him to investigate the individual records of these "honest cloakmakers." The confession of these men seemed to have struck like a bolt of thunder the few Communist commissars who hung around the courthouse, lobby-gowling for their friends, now self-admitted sluggers of cloakmakers and dressmakers.

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## Vice-Pres. Dubinsky Tells How 'Lefts' Killed Chicago Unemployment Fund

Followed Example of Their New York "Comrades" in Making a Gift of It to Employers.

Like the Communists in New York, the Chicago fellow-disciples of the Moscow gospel of rule or ruin in the trade unions have done their utmost, shortly before they had been ousted of power by the Chicago members of the I. L. G. W. U., to wreck the unemployment insurance fund which the International put into operation in that market in 1925.

Vice-President Dubinsky told the story of this piece of Communist trickery at the meeting of the G. E. B. last week in Boston. The Communist officials of the Chicago Joint Board, in an effort to prove to the workers that they were real "revolutionists" and not "class-collaborationists" like the leaders of the International, had scrapped the old arrangement under which the unemployment fund was working in Chicago, and in the new agreement with the employers cut the employers' contribution to the fund in half—to three-quarters of one per

cent of the payroll instead of the one per cent and a half as heretofore, but ostensibly did away with the workers' contribution to the fund, which amounted to three-quarters of one per cent, entirely. When, however, the time for payment of unemployment insurance came around, it was discovered that the fund contained hardly any money, as the employers didn't bother much with their payments either, and so the Communist officials, in order to save their faces, attempted to foist some special contributions on the workers.

Of course, this attempt proved abortive, as it should have, and as a result the "revolutionary" scheme of the Communist "statesmen" stopped, except that their primary desire—to see the unemployment insurance fund destroyed—was actually accomplished, and the Chicago cloak and dress market today has no such institution worth mentioning.

## L. Ostroff Heads Boston Raincoat Makers

Local No. 24 Controls Now Boston Raincoat Work Conditions.

The Boston Raincoat Workers' Union, Local 24, had an election last week and elected Bro. Louis Ostroff as manager.

The local, which recently carried out a successful strike in the Boston trade, resulting for the first time in many years in obtaining control over work conditions in the majority of the shops, placed another big shop in contractual relations with the Union, the Thacher Raincoat Company, thanks to the aid of Vice-President David Ginkgold and Bro. Meyer Polinsky of Local 20. Bros. Ostroff and Ginkgold have also conferred with two other large

raincoat firms in Boston and expect to unionize their shops shortly.

The last meeting of the raincoat makers' local voted to thank President Sigman and the General Executive Board of the I. L. G. W. U. for the help given them in their recent campaign, expressing the hope that the International would continue to take a close interest in their welfare in the future, too.

Bro. Sol Polakoff, International representative in Boston, will retain supervisory capacity over Local 24, as indicated elsewhere in this issue, in accordance with instructions by the G. E. B.

## English Classes at Rand School

This year, more than ever before, the Rand School, 7 East 15th Street, New York City, has arranged to meet the need of the foreign-born worker, whose poor English is a handicap to any active work he may want to do in the working-class movement as well as in his personal life, by organizing four grades of English classes. Grade A-1, which is the lowest class, is to meet at 7 p. m. and A-2 at 8:30 p. m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first sections of B, C and D meet at 7

p. m. and the second sections at 8:30 p. m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

On Thursday night, September 22, Mrs. Beatrice Becker began her course in Correction of Accent. Those who were not able to attend the first session need not feel that they will lag behind the work if they begin Thursday, September 29. It is especially important for all English students to acquire a pure accent and right pronunciation of English.

Because the Rand School feels that a great many more people than can be taken care of in the auditorium of the school will want to hear Bertrand Russell's lecture, it will be given in the Town Hall, 113 West 4th Street, Tuesday, October 4. The celebrated English philosopher and psychologist will lecture on Education and the Good Life.

The Rand School library will continue to give circulation as well as reading-room service. It is open from 2 till 10 p. m. on week days and from 1 till 5 p. m. on Saturdays.

## Women's Council Meets Monday, October 15th

As a result of an omission in the item of last week, the names of four of the most active members of the Women's Dressmakers' Council were not mentioned. These girls are Lillie Raitano, Grace DeLewis, Anna Ruggerio and Clara Raakin. The secretary and chairman of the Women's Council have pointed out that these girls have been indefatigable in their aid on the picket line, morning, noon and after work.

The next meeting of the Women's Council will be held on Monday, October 16, immediately after work. A report of the work done will be submitted and new plans outlined to reach an even larger group who will become active in union circles.

## Lest We Forget

A Page of Trade Unionism

Trade unionism has its gallant fighters, its poets, its seers—and its martyrs. The right to organize has only been won by workers after more than a century of struggle. Even today it has not been fully won; and eternal vigilance must be exercised to guard the inheritance which the trade union pioneers have bestowed upon us. In England, the birthplace of trade unionism, the government has attacked the unions with one of the most vicious and repressive pieces of legislation ever placed upon the statute books. Mark Starr, active British unionist and labor historian, here gives one of the reasons why trade unionism cannot fail—in America any more than in England. He recounts the bitter persecution which some of the earliest trade union organizers in England confronted and overcame.

By MARK STARR

ON MAY 25, 1834, the convict ship, "William Metcalfe," weighed anchor in Portsmouth harbor on her voyage to Botany Bay. Some 240 criminals were packed together in her so tightly that it was impossible to lie down at full length in their berths. Among the unfortunates facing that frightful journey of fourteen weeks were the six trade union martyrs of Tolpuddle. How their minds must have dwelt upon the bitter vindictive persecution which had followed their attempt to stop a reduction of their miserable weekly wage from \$1.75 to \$1.50 by the deceitful local farmers of that Dorset village!

George Loveless and his brother, James, Thomas Standfield and his son John, James Hammett and James Brine were men of blameless character and more used to the pulpit than the cloister, for three of them were Wesleyan local preachers. Their imprisonment in Dorchester jail on February 24th must have been a shock. But George Loveless the leader was not at all intimidated. He contemptuously refused to give evidence against his fellow union members in return for promised liberty. In reply to the chaplain's taunts he had suggested that money ought to be diverted from wasteful fox-hunting to increasing the laborer's wage, and that such gentlemen as the chaplain himself, "wearing clerical livery," might do with a little less salary for the same good end.

At that time the employing classes had not been frightened by any organized general strike; they had only been alarmed by the first serious attempt at an all-inclusive union of the workers—the Owenite Grand National Consolidated. They could not take back the right to organize given ten years before, and so a compliant judge revived an old emergency Act of 1797 which had been used to suppress the Nore mutiny. The union men were thus charged before a packed jury of landowners for administering secret oaths. The words of the final defense made by Loveless are memorable:

We have injured no man's reputation, character, person, or property; we were uniting together to

preserve ourselves, our wives and our children from utter degradation and starvation.

Judge Williams, however, in his summing up, told the jury that:

If such societies were allowed to exist it would ruin masters, cause a stagnation in trade, destroy property;

and to make an example he finally sentenced the six farm workers to seven years' transportation across His Majesty's high seas. With their hands locked together they were hustled back to jail, and later to the hulks.

If Loveless, on that May 25th, could have foreseen the horrors of the voyage, the bullying, the work in the convict chain gang under constant fear of flogging, ill housed and ill fed, and the long hungry trappings in search of casual jobs as a "ticket of leave" which were to drag out over the next two years, his heart might have broken. Fortunately the story does not end there. The trade unionists at home, by petitions and processions, compelled the government to cancel the monstrous sentence. At first the Home Secretary maintained that "the law had been most properly applied" and denied that the punishment was excessive. But in the face of the continued protests Lord John Russell ordered "that the Dorchester unionists were not only to be set at liberty, but also to be sent back to England free of expense and with every necessary comfort." So, on June 13, 1837, the exiles arrived triumphantly in London. In honor of their martyrdom a memorial was erected at Tolpuddle in 1912.

Despite his captors and his manacled wrists, Loveless on the way to prison, after the dread sentence had been passed, tossed amongst the crowd his reply in verse to the union smashers of his day:

"By reason, union, justice, law,  
We claim the birthright of our sires;  
We raise the watchword—Liberty!  
We will, we will, we will be free."

Did such men battle in vain or do their deeds inspire us?

## THEATRE GUILD PLAYS AT REDUCED PRICES FOR OUR MEMBERS

By arrangement with our Educational Department the Theatre Guild is continuing its special subscription of for this season to our members whereby they can see six Guild productions for \$6.00 (just \$1.00 for each play) and receive \$2.20 seats. This plan reduces the cost of theatre at

tendance by more than one-half.

The plays to be presented will be chosen from the following:

Porty.

By Dorothy and Dubose Heyward  
Genius and His Brother,  
By Shi-Vara

Faust.

By Goethe  
The Doctor's Dilemma,  
By Bernard Shaw

Volpone.

By Stefan Zweig  
Much Ado About Nothing,  
By Shakespeare

A Month in the Country.

By Turgenev

The Camel Through the Needle's Eye,  
By Francis Langer.

Subscription blanks can be obtained from our Educational Department, 2 West 16th Street.

## JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
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MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. BAROFF, Secretary Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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## EDITORIALS

### NINE MONTHS OF FRUITFUL LABOR

The report presented by President Sigman at last week's meeting of the General Executive Board in Boston indicates a healthy improvement in the International Union. There is nothing highly colored or varnished in that report. It speaks with equal bluntness of the hardships that were endured, of the gains that were scored, as of the difficulties that are still to be overcome. And it leaves the lasting conviction, that even a hardened pessimist cannot escape, that the International has, in the past nine months, passed the rocks, weathered its worst storm, and is in sight of clear waters now.

What is most important, this report, and the reports of all of the other members of the Board, treat the tragic internal disruption in the organization as a matter of the past, as a closed chapter. The leaders of the Union are today concerned principally with the future, with constructive, remedial work that would heal the wounds inflicted by a heartless enemy hand, with problems of industry and improved work standards that would raise the broken down levels of life and work of our mass of members in every important garment market in the land.

It required courage and vision for the International Joint Board to have embarked upon an organizing campaign in the cloak shops two months ago. Whispers of caution and loud warnings had come forth from all sides to discourage the attempt upon the non-union shops as unopportune and untimely. Even the most loyal workers were too exhausted by the preceding long slack season to assume sacrifice and hardships that a drive of such dimensions would entail, it was pointed out. The Union was short of funds, and it would be hazardous to rely for success exclusively upon the efforts of the volunteer workers, others maintained. The Communist saboteurs and the professional union-breakers were still active in front of the union shops, harassing union men and women on their way to and from work, and a drive undertaken at the wrong moment might give the "revolutionary" gangsters a chance for more mischief and bloodshed.

But the Joint Board brushed aside all objections—valid though as many of them may have sounded—and plunged with enthusiasm into the work of unionizing the badly affected parts of the cloak and dress industry. And the report which Vice-president Hochman, the general manager of the Joint Board directly in charge of that drive, had read to the G. E. B. a few days ago in Boston, proves that this campaign has been a tremendously worthwhile undertaking. Within a few weeks the Union has succeeded in recouping a great deal of the loss which it has suffered during the Communist regime—despite the poor and uncertain work season and the venomous opposition from the non-union element among the employers, aided and abetted by the Communist gang inside and outside the shops. The Joint Board has succeeded in unionizing already more than two hundred shops and has forced a hundred irresponsible non-union shops out of business by refusing to settle with them.

This work, however, is far from completed. The examination of the books of the jobbers and manufacturers, another signal success scored by the Joint Board recently, has facilitated materially the hunt after the scab element in the trade, and has stimulated unionizing activity. The Union has actually driven the disrupter element, that at outset of the organizing campaign still boasted of some influence in nearly 300 cloak shops, into a tight corner, practically eliminating it from the industry, save for a few scab nests, which will, in all probability, expire a natural death by the end of the current season.

And thus all along the line. From Chicago Vice-presidents Ninfo and Mollie Friedman gave an account of the brilliant campaign which the International waged in that city against the adventurers who converted the Chicago cloak and dress organization into a Communist agency. These commissars are today a matter of the past in the Chicago women's garment workers' union. And so from Toronto, from Boston, and from Philadelphia. The loyalty and attachment of our members to their old Union is asserting itself everywhere when it is put to a crucial test, or when the safety of the organization is at stake. The dormant forces awoken, the indifference and the apathy disappear, and the members are once again ready to fight for their International to the last ounce of their strength.

The bridge of doubt and uncertainty is now crossed. Behind us lies the desperate struggle for the safety and sanity of our organization, while on the horizon before us looms up a wonderful outline of constructive achievement. There is the

great problem of establishing the big shop in the cloak and in the dress industry, so vital for the welfare of our workers; there is the question of standardizing upward earnings in all shops, of reforming the work systems in the trade to meet the changing needs of the workers; there is the all important question of season lengthening—interdependent problems which are at the core and basis of all the ills from which our industry is suffering.

These problems the International will now bring to the mass of our workers for intelligent, wide, and democratic consideration. The General Executive Board believes that our organization is owned by its members, and that its members should frame and control its policies and issues. The board is fully aware that these vital constructive measures will offer tremendous difficulties before they become a part of the productive processes of our industry. But is hardly an exaggeration to state that the International leadership has never been in a more hopeful mood with regard to the ultimate possibility of achieving these industrial reforms than now. For, looking backward upon the record of the past nine months, on the wonderful work already accomplished, who can doubt any longer that the members of the International, determined to regain "their place in the sun", will sweep all obstacles aside and will finally place their industry on a more rational and saner basis that would guarantee them a humane standard of work and life?

### THE A. F. OF L. CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES

Next week, the accredited representatives of the American Labor movement will assemble at Los Angeles for the annual inventory of the labor situation in the United States, at the forty-seventh convention of the American Federation of Labor.

For the coming two weeks, beginning October 3, the eyes of all wide-awake groups in the labor movement will be directed toward the workers' parliament in the far-away city on the Pacific Coast. The report of the Executive Council to the convention, which lies before us, should serve as a forecast that this convention will not lack in profound interest.

It must, of course, be kept in mind that the Federation is not a central organization with great executive powers over its affiliated unions. It is principally an alliance of international unions, which grants its component parts, the widest possible autonomy, and is concerned chiefly with formulating general policies and uniform tactics for constructive activity for its affiliated organizations, with straightening out disputes between these unions, and with coordinating their strength for the achievement of general objectives beneficial to labor which these organizations, working in an individual capacity, could not hope to achieve.

An American Federation of Labor convention, therefore, is essentially a tone-giving, policy-discussing gathering, where American labor weighs and measures its record of the year's work, and where the major policies of the whole movement are given the widest discussion possible and are agreed upon.

On the agenda of the Los Angeles convention this year the leadership of the Federation has placed, for the first time, the Five-Day Week as a new goal to strive for. The report mentions the Ladies' Garment Workers among the first labor unions which have succeeded in attaining the five-day week in most of their trades. But the great bulk of American labor still has to achieve this end. "Regulating the hours of work so that wage earners might have more opportunities for recreation and other healthful pursuits, Labor has made fewer hours of work one of its fundamental goals. Shortening the workday has turned toll into work, has afforded the nation's citizens greater opportunity to participate in national problems, and has made possible better home life."

Provision for old age is another of the new problems that will be brought up on the floor of the convention through the recommendation of the Executive Council. The United States is lagging behind in this very important question of care for workers worn out by age. "Every humanitarian instinct demands that persons who have done faithful work should not be allowed to suffer in old age." The Council, however, is not stressing national or state legislation for old age provision. The Council would rather see the international unions, the workers themselves, take care of their aged and disabled veterans. It recommends that such international unions "study all plans of old age pensions, including the insurance plan, already in operation by many unions, in order that the suggestions and advice may be made available for the use of all the organizations affiliated with the Federation."

The fight on the "company unions", which have made such headway in the unorganized industries in the last few years, must be carried on without halt, including the fight against the practice of employers to compel their workers to sign "yellow dog" contracts. Next in importance is the problem of organizing the highly "machinized" industries, such as the automobile and electrical machinery industry. The Federation's convention of last year, in Detroit, voted in favor of pooling the interests of the international unions more closely concerned with the organization of the great mass of workers in these industries for a systematic organizing campaign. A beginning has already been made, but as yet the results are small. It is, indeed, a gigantic task, and no circumspect person could expect a first attempt to bring great returns.

The convention in Los Angeles should, this year, provide more stimulus and enthusiasm for this vital drive among the unorganized in the new metal and machine industries. Before success might be expected in this immense field, information and accurate knowledge of conditions is primarily necessary, the report of the Executive Council points out. "The problem of or-



# Immigrants

SOME weeks ago, a judge in Ohio issued a temporary injunction to restrain soft coal miners on strike from picketing the mines of a certain company. In that writ only "immigrant" miners are forbidden to picket, only miners who are not American citizens, and such as cannot speak English.

It is not my intent to delve into the mental processes of that Ohio judge. It is not, of course, unlikely that he had been tremendously impressed by the pyrotechnics of the mine company's lawyer, who, if he is at all worthy of his hire, should have complained to His Honor that all the "trouble-makers" in the mines, nay, all union men, are damnable "foreigners". Suffice it to say that the nature created an uproar in labor circles, though it must be candidly stated that this stir was occasioned not by the implication contained in the prohibitory order that only natives or naturalized citizens might claim the privilege of "trouble-making". The resentment aroused by the writ was due chiefly to the fact that, for the first time in injunction history, a judge had made an attempt to break down the ancient doctrine of "equality before injunctions". Anger has been stirred not because the immigrant worker had once again been struck at, but because a new weapon has been placed in the hands of injunction employers, a new "wrinkle" added to the art of labor restraint, aggravating the injunction problem more than ever before.

Nevertheless, as the matter looks to me—from my own angle—it is the first implication, the judicial wallop at the immigrant, that is the most significant feature of this Ohio injunction.

It would, of course, be futile to attempt to standardize the American injunction. Injunctions are said to be—and justly so—judge-made law, and it would probably be no exaggeration to state that there are no two injunctions alike, as there are no two judges alike. In the supreme court of one State two judges might treat the same labor case from widely divergent points of view. The issuance of an injunction by one judge is often followed up by a modification or a rescission by another judge of the same instance, or it may have its teeth extracted or amplified by a judge of a higher tribunal. It is, besides, common knowledge that injunctions—and their severity or mildness—greatly depend on the nature of the industry involved and the character of the strike itself. It is patent that

organizing these workers," it says, "presents two aspects: What shall be the basis of union organization and what agency shall be responsible for them. The work of organization in mass production is such that there must be a new basis of appeal. The industry of the plant must be carefully studied in order to find a basis that would introduce elements of unity and joint interests. All unions would gain from such planning and foresight. There is need for study of the mass production industries in order that we may know the probability of industrial development in this direction."

How to maintain members' interest in union work, how to stimulate constructive educational activity in all the international and local unions, the problem of sane and sound labor banking, the formulation of a wage policy based on the increased productivity of the workers, an account of the legislative efforts of the Federation on behalf of the wage earners, the strong opposition of the A. F. of L. to imperialistic aggression in Mexico and other Latin American republics—all these immensely interesting subjects will occupy the attention of the convention delegates at Los Angeles.

Despite apparent slowness the American labor movement continues to move forward. It is bound to make progress because, in the concluding words of the Council's report, the American labor movement "has its roots in vital human activity, guides itself by facts of experience, and finds its inspiration in ideals of human welfare."

## "Trouble-Making" a Native Privilege?—Equality Before Injunction "Law"—Will the Ban Be Made Tighter Still?

By HARRY LANG.

a strike of embroiderers or of jewelry workers is likely to arouse less judicial ire than a strike of railway men or telegraphers.

An examination of such chapters of convention reports of international unions as deal with injunctions actually encountered by these organizations in their daily activity would probably convince the most roseate optimist that the injunction monster is strangulating the legitimate work of the labor unions all over the land. American labor should combine to fight off this invasion of its elementary rights all along the line. Yet, even from this viewpoint the restriction added by the Ohio judge with regard to immigrant labor is but one small item, one small feature added to a large body of "judge-made" law that should be combated without let-up.

But the Ohio writ, as I said already, deserves special treatment because it is conceived not merely as a restraint upon labor in general but as a specific muzzle upon the "immigrant" worker, as a slur and an attack upon the "foreign" unionist.

A series of court decisions have in the past established that the immigrant worker, while not entitled to all the prerogatives of citizenship and the protection it affords, is, nevertheless, on terms of equality before the law with the citizen so far as his labor and the relationships that grow out of his condition as a laborer are concerned. It is not, in reality, a question of equality before the law, but a question of general humanity, of a human attitude, which is recognized by the courts as a matter of international comity, and which should not be ignored by the trade unions in their attitude toward their fellow workmen of foreign extraction or the large non-citizen groups in the big industrial centers.

This may sound like plain talking, and it is. At the coming convention of the American Federation of Labor, in Los Angeles, the subject of "immigration" will, no doubt, find its place on the agenda. The leaders of the Federation themselves are not unlikely to bring it up, if it is not brought up first in some timid and lukewarm resolution by delegates of some "immigrant" union. There is

talk galore that the immigration question will again be an "issue" at the forthcoming session of Congress. It is being broached that the opponents of liberal immigration are getting ready to demand an even stricter ban, and it is quite likely that the leaders of the Federation would at once fall behind such a demand.

This A. F. of L. convention, it must be borne in mind, is held this year in Los Angeles, where the very air is surcharged with enmity to the immigrant. California has its own "foreign" problems—the Mexican problem and the Japanese problem. California also has its own restrictive laws against both Mexican and Japanese immigration. To illustrate the California state of mind with regard to the "yellow peril," and partly toward the Mexican immigrant, it is sufficient to cite the case of the California Jewish garment workers, who on one occasion had introduced a resolution at an I. L. G. W. U. convention asking that Japanese be barred from garment shops. They failed to get a sympathetic hearing, of course, but that is not important. What is important is the general feeling, and this feeling has not only abated in strength but has greatly increased in recent years.

A progressive representative of the California labor movement at a meeting in Honolulu the other day spoke with no less flint-like opposition to any relaxation of the restriction against Japanese immigration to the

States as labor men who speak of added barriers to immigrants from European countries.

It is not difficult, therefore, to forecast the trend of the discussion of the immigration question at the Los Angeles convention.

The A. F. of L. treats the immigration question as a purely economical question. That's sound enough, all right, but the trouble is that the Federation is content to rest upon one general attitude with regard to this problem, while in truth the immigration and emigration phases in the lives of each national and ethnical unit on the face of the globe offer numerous and decidedly divergent angles even as far as the economic side is concerned.

I mentioned already the fact that some of our "immigrant" unions traditionally introduce tepid resolutions at A. F. of L. conventions against the immigration problem. This practice, sterile of results and almost sadly futile, stands badly in need of hoot and frank discussion. I shall attempt it in the columns of "Justice" next week. Perhaps the unceremonious order by that Ohio judge, that is today the subject of widest discussion in trade union circles, will prompt the leaders of the "immigrant" unions to take the initiative in presenting the immigration and emigration problem to the American labor movement in a manner that will make a change from the prevailing wholesale attitude on this subject possible.

Until now, we must admit, the "immigrant" unions, which should be deeply interested in this question, have done precious little in this respect.

## Where's That Prosperity?

By NORMAN THOMAS

THE July figures showed another drop in prosperity for wage workers. Statistics generally combine to show that 1927 will not measure up to 1926. It may even see the beginning of a period of old-fashioned hard times. The New Republic, considering these things, asks, "Would depression help the Democrats?" and answers "No." Even more emphatically we should say that temporary hard times or fear of them will not help socialists or progressives. If you doubt that statement, remember the extraordinary fear which the bosses instilled in the minds of thousands of workers toward the end of the La Follette campaign in 1924. There was a somewhat temporary depression which gave point to the bosses' threat that a big vote for La Follette would cost the workers their jobs. That was enough to scare many who agreed with the Progressives into voting for Coolidge. They thought that the Republicans had the power to shorten or lengthen the period of depression. Permanent hard times might possibly have a more or less educative effect. Temporary hard times only scare the workers into the party of the bosses. The more successfully the force of crises can be diminished the better can we call the attention of the workers to the chronic wastes of our profit system.

This does not mean that under capitalism recurring depressions due to the lack of consuming power in the pockets of the workers can be completely avoided. They cannot, and it is part of our job to explain that fact to the workers. It simply means that when a man has an acute pain in his stomach it is not always the best time to lecture him on healthy eating. A sharp visitation of hard times won't automatically make the workers form a real labor party. Nor are times ever so good that the application of a little intelligent socialism by a labor

party might not make them vastly better.

### The Coal Strike

It is rumored that some sort of settlement of the coal strike may shortly take place in Illinois in spite of the failure of recent negotiations. If this is so, we hope it will not be on the basis of too great concessions by the workers. Even if they maintain their present wage scale there are ever so many technical changes in the agreement which can be made to the advantage of the bosses and the detriment of the workers. Already some of these changes have been suggested in union territory.

The situation is about this: On April 1st, when the strike began, there was a surplus stock of coal in storage amounting to 75,000,000 tons. Non-union mines can produce about 8,250,000 tons less than the average weekly consumption throughout the year. At this rate the surplus stock will be used up about 33 weeks from April 1. Even now the pinch is slowly beginning to be felt.

But, and here's the pity of it, on whatever terms the strike is settled union and non-union mines together can produce about twice as much coal as is needed. That means a great deal of unemployment and low yearly wages. It means suffering and loss to producers and consumers alike. Any plan for saving the coal situation has two essential requirements: (1) the organization of the unorganized workers, and (2) a thorough reorganization of the industry, which is only possible on the basis of nationalization. Here is an important plank for any program of political or industrial action.

### Mussolini and His Friend Jimmy Walker

Mussolini has made himself a law giving him the right to try and punish any foreigner anywhere who does anything that he doesn't like. (Continued on Page 7)



## EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



### The International Conference of Trade Union Women

THE first International Conference of Trade Union Women was held this summer in Paris. The problems which confront working women in industry were discussed. They emphasized the fact that the interests of working women are the same as those of working men—to strive for a better world to live in. And while they were mindful of the fact that women are confronted with special problems which must be solved as such, they were of the opinion that the main problem is that of equal work for equal pay; and that low wages for women is due to lack of organization among them. This they felt is enough to antagonize men against their entrance into the industries. They are frightened by the thought that this will lower their own standard of living. The women delegates were of the opinion that the old prejudice that caused men to exclude women from industry on sex grounds is gradually passing, but that they fear the women will lower their standard of living which they won after so many hard battles. But how can women insist that they be paid men's wages otherwise than through trade union organization? Therefore, an appeal was made at this conference to working women of all lands to "join the trade unions and to develop all their capacities wholly to the service of trade unionism." They felt that women can be protected only through organization just as men are. This is true of the eight-hour day, safe and sanitary factories, sick insurance, and even the securing of minimum wages.

A detailed report at the conference was considered and unanimously adopted. They realized they had a special problem to consider, namely, the married woman in industry. There must be a period of rest before and after childbirth and prohibition from night work. All were in favor of the Washington and Geneva recommendations relating to the protection of

women engaged in unhealthy industries and in agriculture.

Special attention was given to the "home work," which is largely being performed by women. This is natural as many married women can spare a few hours a day from their household duties for work, providing they can do it at home. Of course, we all know how difficult it is to control working conditions at home. Consequently the workers at home are the ones who are most exploited. The conference went on record urging trade unions to give more attention to home work and to make an effort to obtain necessary legislation for protection and for minimum wages. They also realized, as we do, that if these laws are to be enforced, and are not to be merely "dead letters", and if women are to get proper compensation, for their work, that they must have an organization behind them. Hence, they strongly emphasized the importance of trade union organization among home workers.

It seems that our sisters on the other side are realizing, as many of us are coming to understand, that there is no other way of improving the condition of the working women, whether in the shop, factory, mill, office or department stores, except through the same medium by which our brothers improved their condition—trade union organization. In the last analysis, working men and working women want the same things—more leisure, more pay, sanitary conditions, safety protection, and decent treatment, which some call democracy in industry. We hope our brothers will realize that what is good for them is good for the women, and that their condition will be more secure when women will be organized into trade unions and the element of competition between brother and sister, husband and wife, will be eliminated.

F. M. C.

### Interest In Working Women's Problems

Our members have been very much interested in the articles which have been appearing lately on the educational page of "Justice." This is proven by the fact that many of them have come to our office asking for back copies, explaining that their attention had been called to these articles by their fellow workers in the shops.

Needless to say, we are delighted at the interest this material has evoked, as we consider it of educational value. Especially is such informative material important to us, as many of our members are women, and it is good for them to know what other women in this country and abroad are doing for the advancement of their position.

Some of these articles were also of value to the wives of our members. It sets their minds thinking on the important place they can occupy in the labor movement as wives of trade unionists, if only they will give some time and attention to the organization to which their husbands belong and through which they function in our complicated industrial society. It made them realize that if they are to function in our social life they must understand the labor movement better and take an interest in the problems which confront their husbands. As mothers

of the children upon whose intelligence depends a better future for the world, they realize that they will have to understand their children better and be more qualified to influence their minds in the important period of their lives when character is formed, personality developed and habits acquired. The influence of the mother on the child cannot be over-estimated.

We are, therefore, gratified to see the interest which our members are taking in these articles in "Justice."

### Unity Reunion

Last week's announcement in "Justice" that arrangements are being made for our annual Unity Reunion called forth a great deal of interest, and we received many inquiries from persons wanting to know the exact time and place of this affair.

We wish to assure our members and all the friends of Unity that we will have it in the finest place obtainable in the city of New York. No effort or funds will be spared to make this a most inspiring and unusual event—in the real sense a Unity Reunion.

We hope to be able to make a more detailed announcement next week.

### Vanguard Books at Reduced Prices

We are glad to announce some of the new Vanguard publications which we are sure our readers will be eager to obtain:

#### THE MAIN STEM. William Edge.

When Mr. Astorbilt, millionaire, rolls into town, he is motored straight to the Ritz. When Slim, hobo and migratory worker, drops off a rattler and hoofs it toward the city, he makes straight for the Main Stem, great starting and landing point of the hobo, migratory, panhandler and bum. The adventures of Slim and Blonday, migratories during the war, are hugely entertaining, making us vividly aware of another world in the midst of prosaic everyday life. This extraordinary world, with a language, methods, values, eth's, emotions, all its own, is sympathetically and wittily depicted by a conscious "stiff" with a brilliant literary gift.

#### YERNEY'S JUSTICE. Ivan Vankar.

American readers now have the opportunity to enjoy this gem of realistic fiction by one of Europe's greatest novelists. The story is simply told but with such power that the reader is transported to the scene of Yerney's homeland, becomes a part of that tragic character and lives his life with all its strange adventures. When Yerney laughs, you laugh; when Yerney sorrows, you sorrow.

#### NEWS FROM NOWHERE. William Morris.

In this prose-romance we have a vision of an ideal society in which men work for the love of working and express themselves through beauty in the form of arts and crafts. Morris believed an era of fellowship and happiness would come about if society were reconstructed on a just basis. This book must have been a joy to write; it is certainly a joy to read.

These books and other Vanguard publications, priced at 50 cents each, can be obtained from our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street, at greatly reduced prices. Apply at our office, or telephone Chelsea 2148.

#### DAUGHTER OF THE REVOLUTION, AND OTHER STORIES. John Reed. Introduction by Floyd Dell.

Romance and revolution, passionate love and rebellious life—this is the material from which John Reed spun his intensely human stories. In every place he visited in his adventuresome life he was aware of the clash and union of ideas, emotions and ambitions—on the streets of New York, among camp followers of Balkan soldiers, in Mexico, in the underworld cafes of Paris. What Reed saw, he felt—and depicted simply and poignantly. Floyd Dell's introduction tells something of the story of John Reed's own life which with its sudden tragic climax is as dramatic as any he himself relates.

#### AN AMERICAN PILGRIMAGE. Portions of the Letters of Grace Scribner. Selected and arranged by Winifred L. Chappell. Foreword by Harry F. Ward. Drawings by Lynd Ward.

A tragic accident occurs—and the final chapter of a remarkable story is written. Grace Scribner began life in a lumber village, with little preparation for the bitter struggles she was later to face and overcome. After years of confusion and suffering she at last found the opportunity which enabled her to devote herself, body and soul, to her lifelong faith—the religion of humanity. This is an extraordinary document—the biography of a rare soul.

#### HEAVENLY DISCOURSE. Charles Erskine Scott Wood. Drawings by Art Young and frontpiece by Hugo Gellert.

Pick your seat on a soft, fleecy cloud to see Wood's "Celestial Follies." The sky is the stage. The all-star cast includes Billy Sunday, Satan, Roosevelt, Jesus, Rabelais, Ingalls, God, Mark Twain, Bishop Brown, St. Peter and others. The discourse sparkles. "Voltairean!" Romain Rolland calls these brilliant dialogues. Wit, biting truth, slapstick humor, imagination. Laughter rocks the heavens—and human foundations tremble.

### Are You A Citizen?

The Board of Education provides special classes for you if you are a candidate for citizenship. If you have sent in form 2214 to the Bureau of Naturalization, or if you have failed in the preliminary examination at the bureau, these classes are open to you for the special preparation you need. Or it may be that you have a friend or relative who has sent in form 2214 or who has failed in the preliminary examination. Tell him about these free classes.

#### NATURALIZATION CLASSES MANHATTAN

##### P. S.

East Side  
4—Rivington and Pitt Sts.  
25—5th St. bet. 2nd and 1st Aves.  
27—42nd St. bet. 2nd and 3rd Aves.  
42—Hester and Ludlow Sts.  
64—9th and 10th Sts. east of Ave. B  
70—E. 75th St. bet. 3d and 2d Aves.  
83—E. 109th St. bet. 2d and 3d Aves.

##### West Side.

32—35th St. bet. 8th and 9th Aves.  
93—Amsterdam Ave. and 93rd St.  
95—W. Houston and Clarkson Sts.  
157—St. Nicholas Ave. and 127th St.

##### Bronx

43—Brown Place and 135th St.  
54—Intervale Ave. and Freeman St.  
45—139th St. and Lorillard Place.

##### Brooklyn

15—3rd Ave. and Schermerhorn St.  
45—Lafayette Ave. near Classon Ave.  
50—S. 3rd St. bet. Driggs Ave. and Roebling St.  
80—W. 17th St. bet. Mermald and Neptune Aves.  
136—4th Ave., 40th and 41st Sts.  
148—Ellery and Hopkins Sts.  
150—Sackman St. bet. Belmont and Sutter Aves.  
178—Dean St. near Saratoga Ave.

### Step By Step

"Step by step the longest march  
Can be won; can be won.  
Single stones will form an arch  
One by one, one by one."

"And by union, what we will  
Can be all accomplished still.  
Drops of water turn a mill,  
Single none, singly none."



## Combating Seasonal Unemployment In Ladies' Garment Industry

Address by Elias Reisberg, Vice-President, I. L. G. W. U.,  
Delivered at Conference on Unemployment, July 30, 1927,  
Under the Auspices of Philadelphia Labor College and Philadelphia Central Labor Union, at Bryn Mawr, Pa.

(Conclusion)

Of course, it was a new institution, a new venture, and we had to be cautious about it. We worked out rules and regulations with reference to premiums collections as well as to payments of unemployment benefit in such a manner as not to tax this new institution too heavily. The employers were to pay 2 per cent of their pay roll weekly and the workers, as I said, 1 per cent of their wages. As far as payment of benefits is concerned, it was agreed that the maximum annual benefit to a worker should be \$120, or \$60 per season, and that payments should be made twice a year or once a season, at the time of unemployment. I need not tell you that rules were adopted providing for the grading of unemployment benefits in such a way that the workers who had most unemployment should receive the maximum insurance, and the workers who had less unemployment should receive the insurance in proportion to their unemployment. The fund is a joint institution, for it has operated under a Board of Trustees consisting of representatives of the employers and the union, who selected an outsider as the chairman.

You can realize immediately that unemployment benefit of \$120 per year aside from any other important feature, means that the worker who is unemployed part of the time, as the case is in our industry, gets annually from two to three weeks' additional pay in the form of unemployment insurance. And since, as I have told you before, the average employment of the majority of our workers is about 31 weeks per year, the Unemployment Insurance Fund has practically added about 8 per cent to the workers' annual income. Of course, we have workers who are receiving no unemployment benefit for the reason that they have sufficient employment during the season. But the aim of the fund is to help the unemployed workers and not the ones who have sufficient work. You will more readily realize the benefit of unemployment insurance to the workers if I tell you that in the course of three seasons, that is, a year and a half, we paid out over \$2,000,000 to the unemployed and that we collected over two and a half million dollars. And you have to bear in mind that of this amount only a third was paid in by the workers, and the other two thirds, or over a million

and three quarters, was obtained from the employers.

Now, I don't claim that the establishment of the Unemployment Insurance Fund has in any way diminished unemployment. That was not its purpose. Unemployment is still there, but the sufferings of unemployed workers were somewhat alleviated. They are helped at a time when they need the help most because payments of benefit are usually made during the time of unemployment. The workers have realized the benefit of the fund and have appreciated its operation. Again, however, I must say that our internal struggle has temporarily suspended the operation of this institution which has cost us so much effort and hardship and which has been a source of great pride to the leaders of our organization.

You know that after the split in our organization in 1925 the Communists had obtained control of our New York Joint Board. In their anxiety to create a revolution immediately, they had neglected the Unemployment Insurance Fund, which has taken us so long to introduce and establish. In their preaching of hostility to the employers, they let the employers get away with their insurance premiums, which amounted to about a million dollars a year. In 1926, when the Communist leaders ordered the strike in the cloak and suit industry, the fund had suffered irreparable loss. But nothing can be compared to the action of the Communist leaders at the end of 1926, when they lost control of the New York organization and were eliminated entirely from the situation. They then carried on an agitation among the employers as well as the workers not to pay insurance premiums.

The employers, of course, were only too glad to agree with them because, after all, it cost them close to a million dollars a year. But, even among the workers, who were discouraged and disheartened by the strike, which was unnecessary and mismanaged, there was a large number who were not unwilling to obey the command of the Communists not to pay premiums. You know that a slogan not to pay would always be popular with people who had become impoverished and starved, as our workers had been during the six months of strike. And since our organization, although rid of the Communist influence, had been weakened by the internal struggle, it was not in a position to enforce the payment of premiums.

After long debates within the union and with the employers, we realized that it was not advisable to continue the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Fund in a haphazard manner, enforcing it where we could and not enforcing it where we couldn't. We have reached an agreement with the employers whereby the operation of the fund has been suspended until July, 1928. We hope to revive the fund at that time because I, personally, can conceive of nothing more immediately effective in the direction of helping the unemployed workers. And I hope that now after we have rid ourselves of the destructive elements and resumed constructive work in the union, we shall be able to operate a fund for the unemployed even with greater benefit to our members.

In my concluding remarks I wish to say again that our organization has found no immediate cure for unemployment. We have done, probably, more than any other organization to

combat unemployment and to alleviate the condition of our unemployed members. We did it not of choice, but of necessity. We were forced to do it by circumstances, by the seasonal character of our industry and by the peculiar conditions of our industry. Of course, it is only natural that our attention should be centered chiefly on seasonal unemployment and its results. But in our dealings with the problem of seasonal unemployment we inevitably dealt also with general or cyclical unemployment, for unemployment is unemployment in whatever form it comes. Were it not for the new tendencies and trends in our industry, our accomplishments would surely be greater; I am certain our unemployed members would not be subjected to the hardships of unemployment as much as they are now. But picture to yourselves the condition of our workers, had we not adopted the measures I told you about. I told you of facts, not of theories. I spoke of actual doings, not of suggestions. You will pardon me if I say again to you that I did it purposely. I thought that instead of theorizing we ought to learn from each other, from our experience in dealing with the problem.

## Register and Reelect Judge Panken

The campaign to reelect Judge Panken will be won if those who are for him will register next week.

If many of them do not register—and cannot, therefore, vote,—the people of the East Side will lose a man whose presence on the bench is their best guarantee that justice will be rendered in that court for the next ten years.

Judge Panken has been true to the people.

The people must now be true to him.

All workers, in whose cause Judge Panken has given all the years of his life, both on the bench and off the bench, owe him a duty, and if they will do their duty by him as he has done his by them, his election is assured.

The polls will be open for registration on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week, from 5 o'clock in the afternoon until 10:30 at night, and on Saturday from 7 o'clock in the morning until 10:30 at night.

It will not take you more than a few minutes. On your way to the polling place, speak to your neighbors and friends. Ask them to join you—and join the great drive to carry the East Side for Panken. Urge them to do their duty, just as you are doing yours, just as Judge Panken has done his all these years.

If you are not sure where you have to register call at or telephone the campaign headquarters, 107 Second

Avenue, the telephone number being Orchard 4032, and any information you desire will be given. First voters may also call for information if in doubt as to their status.

Do your duty.

Help reelect the people's Judge for the "Poor Man's Court"—Judge Jacob Panken.

## MANUMIT STARTS SEASON WITH THIRTY CHILDREN

Manumit School opened its fourth school year on September 23, 1927, with thirty children, representing fifteen trade unions. Among these unions represented are the Paper Hangers' Union, the Carpenters and Joiners, the Jewish Writers' Union, the Barbers' Union, the Teachers' Union, the Musicians' Union, the I. L. G. W. U., the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Bookkeepers, Stenographers and Accountants' Union, the Furriers' Union, the Millinery Workers' Union, the Actors' Equity Association, the Women's Trade Union League, and the International Cloth Cap and Hat Makers. Although Manumit is intended primarily for the children of workers, a limited number of non-trade union children are accepted.

Manumit is a creative activity school, situated on a 177-acre farm at Pawling, N. Y., where the children have every opportunity that a free environment and teachers trained in experimental methods can provide, for the fullest development of their potentialities and powers.

## Buy Union Stamped Shoes

We ask all members of organized labor to purchase shoes bearing our Union Stamp on the sole, inner-sole or lining of the shoe. We ask you not to buy any shoes unless you actually see this Union Stamp.

## Boot & Shoe Workers' Union

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor

244 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

COLLIS LOVELY

General President

CHARLES L. BAYNE

General Secretary-Treasurer



## Mussolini and His Friend

(Continued from page 5)

So far as foreigners are concerned out of Italy, Mr. Mussolini may well remember the excellent rule for cooking rabbits, which begins "first catch your hare." But maybe this new law explains why New York's—no America's—Jimmy, who has been traveling in Italy, should be saying such nice things about Mussolini as are reported in our newspapers. Or maybe it was the effect of what our worthy Mayor told his Italian host was "the best lunch I have ever drunk." Of course no one can believe that a great Democrat and friend of the people like Mr. Walker could praise this blustering autocrat for any other reason. How often have we been told that the new Tammany Hall under Al Smith and Jimmy Walker is the last word in "government of the people, by the people and for the people." Surely it can have no sympathy for the Fascist boss.

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## The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

One of the most important sessions of the General Executive Board of the International was concluded last week in Boston, at which, for the first time in years, the members of the Board were able to devote all of their time to the solution of the industrial problems facing the Union. Elsewhere in this issue the members of Local 10 will find a detailed report of the accomplishments and the plans outlined for future activity.

### Organization Receives Main Consideration.

One of the greatest problems with which the Union is now faced is that of lifting the cloak as well as dress-trade out of the chaotic rut into which the short-lived Communist misrule had plunged it. During the Communist "leadership" of the deposed Joint Board, least of all attention was paid by them to organization problems. Of uppermost consideration for them was how to capture the unions for Communism.

During the past few months International President Sigman has devoted nearly all of his time and attention to planning how to revitalize the locals weakened by Communist misrule. Considerable attention was also given by him to the problem of stabilizing employment and to consideration of measures that tend to encourage the growth of larger shops.

Perhaps the biggest organizational problem today in the International is the dress trade. This industry, if not already the biggest trade in the women's wear industry, will soon reach that position. The dress has taken the place of the waist and skirt and suit and waist. Not only did the General Executive Board give consideration to the organization of this industry, but it has also considered questions of remedying the faults of the work-systems so that they might be made to yield the maximum of benefit to the workers.

### Cloak Investigation Almost Completed.

What is regarded as a healthy sign which points to the coming back of the cloak industry to its former footing, was seen in the report of Julius Hochman, general manager of the Joint Board, on the progress made in the investigation of the manufacturers' and jobbers' books ordered by Impartial Chairman Ingersoll. It will be recalled that Manager Dubinsky had reported at the last membership meeting that for the first time the members of the Industrial Council were compelled to open their books for investigating purposes.

Thus far a majority of the cloak manufacturers and jobbers have had their books investigated. The union was thus afforded easy access to the open shops to which union jobbers were giving work. As non-union shops are being unearthed through this investigation, the reports are received

by the union and referred to the organization department. Hochman said that a good number of the open shops have since entered into negotiations with the union with a view to settlement.

A number of the non-union shops have already been signed up. However, there are some which refuse to sign agreements. In these cases the union proceeds at once to notify the jobber or the manufacturer from whom work is received that the contractor failed to unionize his factory and that, therefore, work must be withdrawn from the contractor's factory until such time as he will come to terms.

Under the present agreement investigations are compulsory through the office of the Impartial Chairman. Not only does the union send its representatives to submanufacturers to explain to them that in order to receive work from a union manufacturer or jobber they must maintain union shops, but under the same terms the associations are compelled to do likewise. This work of surveying is carried on under the direction of Mr. F. Nathan Wolf, who is attached to the staff of the Impartial Chairman, Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll.

### Workers Express Appreciation

What the members of the International think of the efforts of the Joint Board to establish union conditions and to rid the union shops of non-union workers was expressed by a number of shops in resolutions and money donations toward the Drive Fund. Among those mentioned as specially active is Samuel Perlmutter, manager of the American and Independent Department of the Joint Board.

The workers of the Henry Pearl Corporation of 518 Eighth Avenue expressed deep appreciation "to the officers of the Joint Board and particularly to Brothers S. Perlmutter and (Business Agent) J. Snyder." Two workers of this shop had been discharged by the employer and through the efforts of Perlmutter the workers were reinstated. Another reason for the appreciation is that the employer had violated certain provisions of his agreement, which were adjusted by the union's officers.

Among the shops that donated money towards the organization work of the union were the Lion Costume Company and the Sadowsky Costume Company. Both of these shops fell under the influence of Communist disruption, so much so that union conditions were threatened to be wiped out.

Business Agent David Fruhling was assigned to the task of eliminating these violations. When, following a shop meeting, it was found that there were employed by the firm of the Lion Costume non-union workers, the firm was asked to discharge these.

During the week following the discharge of the non-union workers the writer, while visiting the cutting department, learned that a proposal had been made by one of the non-union workers that he would "fix it" so that the shop could be run on a non-union basis.

### Open Shop Effort Fails.

What earned for Fruhling the commendations of the entire dress department of the Joint Board was his success in stopping non-union production by the firm of the Sadowsky Costume Co. Some time ago one of the Communist puppets employed by this firm boasted of immunity from International control. The firm so much appreciated this boast that it was encouraged to the extent of sending work to a non-union contractor. When Fruhling visited the shop to make an investigation of the books and to determine the extent of the violation, the firm refused to permit the investigation.

The business agent thereupon stopped the shop. Within less than twenty-four hours the firm had undergone a change of heart, and Fruhling was allowed to investigate the books. The result was that his charge was substantiated. The firm informed the contractor that work would be withdrawn unless the shop became organized.

In order to prevent a similar repetition, Fruhling saw to it before allowing the workers to resume work that every worker in the shop was in possession of a bona fide union card. Today every worker in this shop is a good-standing member and the danger of further violations has been considerably lessened.

Other workers who made contributions to the Joint Board in appreciation of the union's efforts were the workers of M. Feingold, 213 West 35th Street; the Public Dress Company, 300 Seventh Avenue, and the Rapp Costume Company, 263 West 35th Street.

### Cutters Not Misled Regarding Saturday Work.

Hundreds of calls were received on Thursday and Friday of last week by the office from employers who sought to have their cutters work on Saturday for single time in exchange for the Jewish holidays. Invariably the employer would say that his association, the Dress Manufacturers, or the Industrial Council, had informed him that the cutters are to work on Saturday for single time. In no case, however, did a cutter accept the decision of the associations as binding upon him.

The office informed the employers that a decision from the Manufacturers' Association is binding upon them only, insofar as the cutters are concerned, a decision was adopted by them at their meeting on Monday, September 12, 1927, and this decision is to be adhered to. As will be seen from the notice at the bottom of this page, "Any permission granted to shops to work on Saturday is not valid for cutters unless it is specifically secured from the office of Local 10." As a result of this notice, hun-

dreds of cutters called the office on the telephone or appeared in person inquiring whether the decision of the association applies to them. They were, naturally, informed that they are to abide only by the rules of the office, and that the association could not make any decision for the members of the union. Members are warned that if found working on a Saturday or Sunday without a permit from Local 10 they would be disciplined.

### Membership Meeting October 10.

The next membership meeting will take place on Monday evening, October 10, in Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place. Due to the intervention of the Jewish holidays, a membership meeting could not take place before the regular date for meetings in October. Since the last meeting took place on September 12, nearly an entire month will have elapsed by the time the next meeting of the body will be held. For this reason it is important for the members to bear the dates in mind and to attend.

Insofar as trade conditions are concerned, while no decided lull has set in, still the activities have somewhat fallen off. That there is still some work in the trade is noted, however, by the fact that not many cutters are unemployed. Shop meetings are still held by the office and activities in general continue as during the early part of the present season.

At the last meeting of the executive board, Isidor Nagler, manager of the Industrial Council department of the Joint Board, bade farewell to the officers and members, preparatory to his departure for the convention of the American Federation of Labor, which opens on October 3 in Los Angeles, Cal. Nagler was elected a delegate at the biennial convention of the International, which was held in December, 1925, in Philadelphia. Delegates to the American Federation of Labor are elected by the International every two years and attend the subsequent annual conventions. This, therefore, is the second time Nagler represents the International at an A. F. of L. convention, having attended the 1926 convention in Detroit, Mich. Nagler was given a rousing send-off by a committee of the executive board specially appointed for that purpose.

### "WORLD UNITY"

World Unity, a monthly magazine "interpreting the spirit of the new age" and addressed to "those who seek the world outlook upon present developments of philosophy, science, religion, ethics and the arts," will make its initial appearance this week.

The editor is John Herman Randall, and the managing editor Horace Holley. Contributors to the first number include: Dr. William R. Shepherd, Charles Henry Rieber, Alfred W. Martin, Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, Mary Siegrist, Dr. Herbert Adolphus Miller and Dr. John Herman Randall, Jr.

World Unity is published by the World Unity Publishing Corporation, 122 East 34th Street. The subscription price is \$2.50 per year.

## Attention, Members of Local 10!

According to the decision of the members at the meeting of Monday, September 12, 1927, cutters are instructed not to work on Saturdays in any shop.

Any permission granted to shops to work on Saturdays is not valid for cutters unless it is specially secured from the office of Local 10. No cutter is to take for granted a permit to work on Saturdays in exchange for the Jewish holidays from anyone except an authorized officer of the Cutters' Union.

Committees will be sent to the shop districts to enforce this decision.

THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 10.